THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) M/s. Ranbaxy is engaged in the manufacture of various drugs and formulations. Incentives, including those for R&D activity, are available to them in accordance with the provisions of Drug Policy, 1986 and Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1987.

Fertilizer Units of Tamil Nadu

3072. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fertilizer units set up in Tamil Nadu during the last two years, districtwise;

(b) the number of units out of them where production has started; and

(c) the number of such units which are likely to start their production in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No major fertilizer unit has been set up in Tamil Nadu during the last two years. Moreover under the Industrial Policy statement of My, 1991, no licence is required to set up fertilizer units in the country.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Price/use of Urea

3073. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of Urea has increased recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether use of Urea will decrease due to increase in price; and

(d) if so, the effect on production of rice and sugarcane due to less use of Urea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The farmgate price of urea has been increased by 20% w.e.f. 10.6.1994. This has been done to contain the mounting subsidy bill as also to check imbalance in the use of various plant nutrients. Simultaneously, the scheme of special concessions on decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers has been continued during the current year on last year's pattern. Notwithstanding the above increase, the farmgate price of urea continues to be heavily subsidised. Further, in spite of the above increase, the farmgate price of urea in India is still the lowest compared to the neighbouring countries.

(c) The increase in price of urea is not likely to have any adverse impact on consumption.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

Subsidy given to Fertilizer Units in Tamil Nadu

3074. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy given to fertilizer units in Tamil Nadu during 1993-94; and

(b) the subsidy proposed to be given during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) During 1993-94, an amount of Rs. 290.54 crores was paid as subsidy to various fertilizer units located in Tamil Nadu.

(b) A provision of Rs. 3500 crores has been made in the budget for 1994-95 for payment of subsidy on indigenous fertilizers. Out of this, the subsidy to be paid to the units in Tamil Nadu would depend on their levels of production during the year. No State-wise allocations are made in the budget.

Price Control Exemption for Genetically Engineered Drugs

3075. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal on Price Control Exemption for genetically engineered drugs;

(b) if so, the details of such an exemption proposed;

(c) whether Government will control the prices of other bulk drugs; and

(d) the details of genetically engineered drugs presently in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) The Review of Drug Policy, 1986, which inter alia includes various aspects of price control is still under consideration of the Government.

Supply of Fertilizer Technology

3076. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US administration has cleared an export licence to supply fertilizer technology to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) its likely impact on the fertilizer industry of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO); (a) to (c) US Government has approved the grant of an export licence to M/s. M. W. Kellogg (USA) to supply fertilizer retrofit technology to the Hazira plant of KRIBHCO. KRIBHCO will now be in a position to retrofit their ammonia plants at Hazira using kellogg's technology for enhancement of production.

Study on the impact of fertilizer subsidy reduction

3077. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study on impact of subsidy reduction on fertilizers in the Primary Agricultural Cooperatives Societies in different States was conducted by the National Cooperative Union of India recently;

(b) if so, the main findings of the study relating to West Bengal, Bihar and Rajasthan; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Naptha-Based Fertilizer Plants

3078. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the Naptha-based fertilizer plants set up in the country;

(b) the annual production of fertilizers in these plants;

(c) the steps taken to augment fertilizer production in these plants; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) At present, there are 13 naphthabased fertilizer plants in the country. During the year 1993-94, these units produced 17.12 lakh tonnes of nitrogenous fertilizers in terms of nitrogen nutrient.

Out of the 13 naphtha-based plants, 6 are in the public sector, three of which stand referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction as sick units. Out of the remaining 3 in the public sector, the plant of M/s. Madras Fertilizers Ltd. at Manali (Madras) is being currently revamped to augment production, at a cost of Rs. 487.47 crores.